

**DRAFT**  
 Expanded Natural Resource Interim Committee  
 North Idaho Working Group  
 Meeting Notes from October 1, 2004 Meeting  
 Moscow, Idaho

Working Group Members in attendance:

Rep. Meyer, Chairman  
 Sen. Schroeder  
 Sen. Compton  
 Sen. Brandt  
 Sen. Stegner  
 Rep. Cuddy  
 Rep. Eskridge

Working Group members absent:

Sen. Keough

Meeting Notes

The meeting was called to order at 10:22 am. The minutes from the August 24 meeting were approved.

Les MacDonald, City of Moscow, presented information about proposed projects (Appendix I) and identified four goals (Appendix II) the Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee (PBAC) would like the North Idaho Legislative Working Group to support. The proposed projects are:

1. Monitoring Well Fields Nos. 2 and 3
2. Pilot Passive Recharge Well
3. Pilot Infiltration Basin or Combined Wetlands/Infiltration Basin
4. Aquifer Model Development
5. Pilot Surface Catchment Project

The goals outlined are:

1. Recommend actions the State should undertake to assist or supplement the efforts of the Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee
2. Evaluate and make recommendations regarding an administrative structure for ensuring that short-term and long-term Moscow/Pullman Aquifer management
3. Study and recommend methods for funding implementation of Moscow/Pullman Aquifer System management goals and objectives
4. Recommend how Washington State and Idaho Interests in the aquifers should be addressed

See Appendix I and II for details of the projects and goals.

The working group spent the afternoon developing recommendations. The working group discussed the Draft Rathdrum Prairie Ground Water Management Plan (Appendix III), drafted by the Rathdrum Prairie Ground Water Advisory Committee. Hal Anderson, IDWR, was tasked with drafting up draft recommendations from the flip chart notes and the discussions. A copy of the draft document is attached at Appendix IV.

No additional meetings were scheduled. The meeting adjourned at 3:27 pm.

## **Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee Project Proposals**

With the development of the 1992 Ground Water Management Plan the Pullman-Moscow Water Resources Committee set as its primary goal the following:

“To Provide For Future Beneficial Use of the Basin Ground Water without Depleting the Basin Aquifers While Protecting the Quality of the Water.”

Subsequent reviews of the plan in the late 1990 have resulted in a refinement of this goal to stabilize declining aquifer levels by the year 2020. In order to achieve this refined goal, the Committee, now known as the Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee (PBAC), has prioritized its efforts towards research of the aquifers' characteristics in order to better understand how naturally occurring recharge could be enhanced. With the financial commitment of the member communities PBAC has made progress towards this understanding and is now on the point of embarking on larger scale projects that will further clarify if the currently proposed methods of recharge enhancement are truly feasible. The limiting factor in the advancement of these projects is financial. The members of PBAC have shown a consistent commitment to the ongoing managerial aspects of the aquifer by financing \$35,000 per year for PBAC administration costs. In addition, in recognition of the need to provide local funding solutions, the PBAC members have been contributing \$80,000 per year towards groundwater research efforts within the basin. While the members of PBAC recognize the need to provide local funding, it is difficult for communities the size of those in the PBAC membership to produce the type of revenue needed to develop the larger scale research and, ultimately, the construction projects necessary to meet the 2020 stabilization goal. With this difficulty in mind, the projects noted below are those proposed by PBAC for funding by the Idaho Legislature or other outside sources with the intent of advancing the efforts of stabilizing the aquifers in the most expeditious manner.

1. **Project Title: Monitoring Well Fields Nos. 2 and 3**

**Project Purpose:** Obtain additional aquifer recharge by utilizing a natural interface between the North Fork of the Palouse River and the Wanapum Aquifer.

**Project Description:** A natural interface between the upper (Wanapum) aquifer and the North Fork of the Palouse River exists in the vicinity of the Town of Palouse, Washington. The intent of this recharge approach is to increase the amount of naturally occurring recharge from the river system to the upper aquifer by promoting an increase in the recharge from the upper aquifer to the lower (Grand Ronde) aquifer. This would likely be achieved through a passive recharge well system. In order to determine the feasibility of this approach, research is needed to determine the extent of the lower aquifer connection to the Palouse area and the direction of natural water movement in the lower aquifer. If the movement of water in the lower aquifer is as currently anticipated, the intent would be to use passive enhancement of natural river recharge via the upper aquifer to the lower aquifer to force or induce water to move to the Moscow and Pullman pumping centers, thus mitigating the impacts of the municipal supply on the lower

aquifer. Three monitoring well fields are proposed to determine the extent of connectivity and the direction of water movement, to gather benchmark data on current water levels and quality, and to add key geological data necessary to evaluate the viability of this recharge option. The first of these well fields will be located in the State of Washington and financing has been secured with a combination of local and Federal funds. The second and third monitoring well fields, which will be located in Idaho, have not been financed and are proposed as candidates for the consideration of the Natural Resources Subcommittee.

Project Cost: Monitoring Well Field #2 - \$220,000

Monitoring Well Field #3 - \$154,000

2. Project Title: Pilot Passive Recharge Well

Project Purpose: Develop a better understanding of the ability to supplement naturally occurring recharge from the upper aquifer to the lower aquifer through the use of passive recharge wells.

Project Description: In support of the recharge option noted in item 1 above, this project would install a pilot test well to explore the complexities of making a physical connection between the upper and lower aquifers in the form of a controlled passive recharge well system. By utilizing such a well system, it may be possible to increase the amount of naturally occurring recharge that enters the lower aquifer. This would allow water from the upper aquifer, which has a much higher natural recharge rate, to be used to supplement the lower aquifer and reduce the impacts of withdrawals for domestic and agricultural uses.

Project Cost: Passive Recharge Pilot Well - \$100,000

3. Project Title: Pilot Infiltration Basin or Combined Wetlands/Infiltration Basin

Project Purpose: Increase understanding of ability to enhance natural recharge to upper aquifer through use of infiltration galleries or combined infiltration basin/wetlands facilities.

Project Description: This project is intended to increase understanding of the ability to enhance recharge to the upper aquifer through the use of surface facilities. If the research determines that this is a feasible option, future projects could include the use of treated surface water or polished Waste Water Treatment Plant effluent for infiltration into the upper aquifer. The project will include the installation of a pilot facility on a University of Idaho site to allow for testing of various methods of enhancing infiltration.

Project Cost: Pilot Combined Wetlands/Infiltration Basin - \$88,000

4. Project Title: Aquifer Model Development

Project Purpose: The creation of a new computerized model of the Palouse Aquifers systems would allow for more accurate projection of existing and future aquifer

conditions and will provide a valuable tool for projections of effects on the aquifer due to various water recharge and use scenarios.

**Project Description:** This project would create a new computerized model of the Palouse Aquifers systems that would take into account the research information that has been obtained since the last modeling effort in the late 1980's. Due to the nature of the multi-level aquifer system within the Palouse Basin it is difficult to gather sufficient field data to answer all questions related to aquifer recharge, aquifer discharge, and vertical connectivity between the multiple layers. With this in mind it is the intent of this project to create a model with the most current field data available and then to develop alternate model scenarios that will help further replicate the historic conditions of the basin. With this refinement of the model the ability to project the potential impacts to the system from outside influences will be enhanced.

**Project Cost:** Aquifer Model Development - \$250,000

5. **Project Title:** Pilot Surface Catchment Project

**Project Purpose:** To determine the feasibility of the installation of rainwater catchment facilities that could inject high quality water into the upper or lower aquifer through infiltration galleries (upper aquifer only) or passive recharge wells.

**Project Description:** This project would create a pilot test facility that would consist of a five to ten acre rainwater catchment basin that would collect precipitation and channel it to injection facilities. The injection facilities would consist of a passive recharge well or an infiltration gallery depending on target aquifer and characteristics of site soils. Due to the clean nature of the collected water it is anticipated that minimal treatment of the injected water would be required.

**Project Cost:** Pilot Surface Catchment Project - \$150,000

**Expanded Natural Resources Interim Committee  
Northern Basins Working Group**

**Recommendations**

**Draft 10/4/04**

**Introduction:**

The Northern Basins Working Group met monthly beginning in April 2004 at various locations including Post Falls, Orofino, Sandpoint and Moscow. The Working Group has received testimony and information from organizations, citizens, local officials and scientific experts. The following recommendations are formulated and submitted for consideration and funding by the Idaho Legislature. These recommendations in no way document support for projects or programs being developed by Work Groups in other areas of the state. The Northern Basins Work Group understands the importance of water resources for continued economic and environmental sustainability, and supports a priority focus on securing resources to resolve Idaho's various water management challenges. These recommendations are formulated by river basins.

**Clark Fork, Pend Oreille, Kootenai, Moyie and Priest River Basins:**

1. Establish \$102,000 in funding for data base development and collection of water monitoring data for Pend Oreille and Clark Fork rivers. Including \$60,000 one time funding for the development of a database to compile in one place studies done on Pend Oreille lake on water quality and water quantity issues and to identify gaps in baseline data and \$42,000 for water quality monitoring to establish base conditions prior to the development and operation of the Rock Creek mine in Montana.
2. \$50,000 one time money to the Kootenai Resource Initiative to supplement funding for collecting and analyzing data related to reservoir operation effects on white sturgeon and to develop baseline data for water quality and water quantity issues on the Moyie and Kootenai Rivers.
3. The Pend Oreille and Priest Lake Commission has existed for two years with no state funding. The Northern Basins Work Group recommends \$150,000 in start up funding for an executive director, office space and operating expenses.
4. Legislature should provide funding for a study of Pend Oreille lake level/operation on ground water recharge to the Rathdrum aquifer. Pend Oreille is at the upper end of the Rathdrum aquifer and changes to the operation of the lake level may have an effect on the amount of water recharged to the Rathdrum aquifer. A study is needed to quantify the degree of interconnection between the lake and the aquifer and how lake level changes would affect the aquifer. *(funding amount not identified at this time)*

**Coeur d' Alene, Spokane and Rathdrum:**

1. Idaho is currently engaged in a collaborative study of the Rathdrum Aquifer with the State of Washington and the U.S. Geological Survey. The study resulted from concerns in Washington and Idaho of the long-term viability of the ground water and interconnected surface waters of the Rathdrum aquifer and Spokane River including interstate water delivery issues. The state of Washington committed \$100,000 last year to this study and

\$500,000 of federal funding was also secured and is being used for then first year of a multi-year study effort. The Work Group recommends that Idaho contribute \$150,000 a year for the next two years to support the study effort and encourages continued funding for future monitoring, measurement and modeling.

2. Establish and designate an Idaho/Washington organization that will coordinate and collaborate on cross-border water management issues. The organization will work with state water management agencies, local governments and other stakeholders to facilitate cooperation and information exchange. A base level funding of \$50,000 a year is proposed.
3. Adoption of the recommendation of the Rathdrum Ground Water Management Plan advisory committee (attached). Recommendations include commencement of water right adjudication for the Coeur d'Alene basin.
4. Additional funding for water quality monitoring for the Department of Environmental Quality. (*Specific amount has not been identified*)

#### **Palouse:**

1. Adopt project proposals from Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee (PBAC), (attached). Work Group recommends funding the first two priority projects for Monitoring Well Fields Nos. 2 and 3 and Pilot Passive Recharge Well included in the PBAC proposal which total \$474, 000 for fiscal year 2006. The remaining three projects; Pilot Infiltration Basin or Combined Wetlands/Recharge Basin, Aquifer Model Development, Pilot Surface Catchment Project that total \$488,000, should be funded as soon as possible.
2. Commence a general adjudication of water rights in the Palouse basin only if supported by local community.

#### **Clearwater and Salmon:**

1. Legislative support including letters from legislative leadership for dredging and other projects to keep the Port of Lewiston operable for shipping. Also letters supporting the continued maintenance and operation of the lower Snake River Dams for clean hydropower production and shipping operation.
2. No need for additional minimum streamflows or protection is necessary for the Selway, Lochsa, Salmon and Little Salmon rivers. If the proposed settlement of Nez Perce tribal claims in the Snake River Basin Adjudication is not approved then the state should evaluate if additional protection or regulation is needed.
3. Legislature should oppose the potential listing of North Fork Clearwater rainbow trout as a threatened species requiring protection under the Endangered Species act.
4. State should seek greater control of Dworshak reservoir so the water resource could be used for the benefit of Idaho citizens not the federal government.

#### **General Recommendation:**

1. Additional funding into the IDWR budget to monitor, measure, collect and analyze surface and ground water data in the Northern basins particularly in areas with on-going concerns. Recommend \$250,000 per year of which \$150,000 for FY06 and FY07 will be dedicated to support the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Hydrologic Project.

2. Move forward to adjudicate the remaining basins in the state that were not completed in the Snake River Basin adjudication. This should be accomplished by basin based upon support from the local community. At this time an adjudication is not supported for the Palouse and Potlatch basins, but a public process will be implemented to determine if there is support for an adjudication.
3. Establish an organization to coordinate and facilitate cross-border water resource management. Organization should focus on collaboration and information exchange for water resource issues between Idaho and Washington. Goal should be to provide a forum to educate and inform the community as well as provide recommendations to state water management agencies.

## RECOMMENDED

## RATHDRUM PRAIRIE GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREA

## GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

**I. INTRODUCTION**

On December 11, 2002, the Director, Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR), designated the Rathdrum Prairie Ground Water Management Area ("RPGWMA"). The area was established to protect the ground water resources and users of the Rathdrum Prairie-Spokane Valley Aquifer within the state of Idaho. In Idaho, the aquifer is located in parts of Kootenai and Bonner counties and lies under more than 200 square miles of land.

Ground water resources in the aquifer supply much of the drinking water, irrigation, recreation, commercial, and industrial needs of the Rathdrum Prairie area. Careful management of the ground water supply is essential for the long-term economic vitality of the local and regional community.

A key component of the Director's Order is the development of a Ground Water Management Plan ("Plan") that balances the goals of protecting existing water users and maximizing the public benefit of the ground water resource. The Plan strives to create the tools to administer ground water resources now and in the future. The Plan attempts to balance protection of existing uses and the quality of the ground water resource while allowing for future development and encouraging water conservation.

**II. PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY**

The Plan governs administration of ground water resources within the boundaries of the RPGWMA pursuant to Idaho Code.

The Plan implements the Order issued by the Administrator, IDWR, on December 11, 2002, which created the RPGWMA. The Plan includes recommendations of the Advisory Committee created by that Order. A copy of the Order is included as Attachment A.

**III. GOALS**

The goals of the Plan are:

1. To obtain adequate technical data and quantification of **water availability** to make knowledgeable and appropriate management decisions about the ground water resources of the Rathdrum Prairie;
2. To obtain adequate technical data and quantification of **water use** to make knowledgeable and appropriate management decisions about the ground water resources of the Rathdrum Prairie;

3. To manage the ground water resource efficiently and fairly for all users of the resource;
4. To encourage water purveyors, regulatory agencies, and local & regional governments to plan for future water needs and incorporate the principles of this Plan in programs and policies & ordinances;
5. To encourage water conservation efforts for all users of the resource; and,
6. To encourage the state of Washington to obtain similar information to manage the resource consistently across the bi-state aquifer.

#### **IV. WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES**

To accomplish the goals, the following strategies are recommended:

##### **Goal 1**

To obtain adequate technical data and quantification of **water availability** to make knowledgeable and appropriate management decisions about the ground water resources of the Rathdrum Prairie.

##### **Strategies**

A) IDWR will support and participate in the ongoing bi-state hydrogeologic study for the entire Rathdrum Prairie-Spokane Valley Aquifer. That study will include collection and analyses of data to understand the sustainable yield of the aquifer. This knowledge will be applied to modeling and other techniques for future management of the aquifer.

B) IDWR will modify management of the aquifer as additional information becomes available. Modifications to aquifer management may include changing the boundary of the RPGWMA, imposing special conditions on new and future water right permits, and other modifications as deemed appropriate and consistent with the goals of the Plan.

C) IDWR will develop an appropriate system to obtain the following information during well drilling and development of specific wells identified by IDWR in strategic locations:

- a. Depth to water;
- b. GPS coordinates of well locations;
- c. Detailed lithology;
- d. Depth to bedrock;
- e. Pump tests;
- f. Water quality sampling;

##### **Goal 2**

To obtain adequate technical data and quantification of **water use** to make knowledgeable and appropriate management decisions about the ground water resources of the Rathdrum Prairie.

## **Strategies**

A) Collection of data for management of ground water use will be a multi-step process, leading to final administration. The steps, to be implemented as promptly as practicable are:

Step 1. Establish a Water Measurement District: As an interim measure, IDWR will establish a Water Measurement District as defined by Title 42, Chapter 7, Idaho Code until a water district as defined by Title 42, Chapter 6, Idaho Code can be established. A water measurement district will provide needed information about water use on the Rathdrum Prairie. Measurement and reporting to IDWR will assist in compiling water use information for developing a water budget as a part of the bi-state hydrologic study. Monitoring and reporting will be initiated for all consumptive water uses as follows:

For new uses 0.2 cubic feet per second (cfs) or less must have a functional metering device and report the total withdrawal once per year and agree to a simple list of conservation measures at the time of licensing;

For existing and new uses 0.21 cfs to 1.0 cfs is the same as above plus quarterly monitoring of water depth and quarterly reporting; and,

For existing and new uses 1.0 cfs or greater is the same as above except water production meters and water depth must be read monthly and reported quarterly. A conservation plan must be written and reviewed annually for achieving the goals and changes.

Step 2. Adjudication of Water Rights: Since resolution of aquifer issues is of vital importance to both Idaho and Washington, general adjudication of all existing water rights should be completed. While adjudication funding may not be immediately available, the highest priority should be assigned to completing this adjudication. An adjudication will completely define water rights in the basin. If the basin is subdivided for accomplishing a general adjudication, the lands overlying the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer must be adjudicated first to maintain economic viability of this valuable region.

Step 3. Water District: Once the adjudication is completed, the water measurement district will be dissolved and a water district will be created in its place. The water district, with an elected watermaster and IDWR oversight, will provide administration of water rights and provide water users protection against illegal use or overuse of rights. As a minimum, the monitoring and reporting program established in Step 1 should be continued by the water district.

### **Goal 3**

To manage the ground water resource efficiently and fairly for all users of the resource.

#### **Strategies**

A) Water administration under the direction of a water district will provide distribution of water in accordance with the schedule of rights and protect all water users from misuse or overuse.

B) IDWR shall evaluate transfers of water rights to ensure that the lands that the water rights originally benefited continue to receive an adequate water supply.

### **Goal 4**

To encourage water purveyors, regulatory agencies, and local & regional governments to plan for future water needs and incorporate the principles of this Plan in programs and policies & ordinances.

#### **Strategies**

There are some water issues that are beyond the authority of the IDWR. These issues include, but are not limited to, local and regional planning and zoning, local and regional water conservation programs, and interstate water management:

A) Long term planning for municipal and community needs should use the planning tools available to them for planning and protecting for their future water needs. The privileges accorded municipal water purveyors by Idaho Law should be investigated for use by all local and regional bodies that qualify for that status.

B) IDWR encourages local jurisdictions to require connections to community systems when available in lieu of individual wells.

C) While protecting the sovereign rights of the state of Idaho, IDWR supports the concept of regional water management for the Rathdrum Prairie-Spokane Valley Aquifer. The aquifer is a regional resource that requires cooperation for comprehensive management and long-term viability.

### **Goal 5**

To encourage water conservation efforts for all users of the resource.

## **Strategies**

A) For all new water rights or changes to existing water rights, IDWR will require conservation plans from all municipal purveyors regulated as public water systems and other ground water right holders diverting more than 0.20 cfs. IDWR will enforce adherence to the conservation plan provisions through permit conditions or civil penalties as allowed by law. IDWR will develop a schedule of elements to be included based on system size. Each plan may include the following elements as described in guidelines published by EPA ("Water Conservation Plan Guidelines", Environmental Protection Agency, 1998):

- specify conservation planning goals
- develop a water system profile
- describe planned facilities
- identify water conservation measures
- analyze benefits and costs
- select conservation measures
- integrate resources and modify forecasts
- present implementation and evaluation strategy

B) IDWR encourages economic support for water purveyors to develop conservation plans through access to federal and state programs such as the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF).

C) IDWR encourages the establishment of an aquifer-wide water conservation advisory committee representing municipal purveyors for purposes of water conservation planning, education, and implementation.

D) IDWR promotes landscaping efficiency demonstration projects and encourages funding support through state and federal sources.

E) IDWR supports price structures for water that encourage conservation of water resources.

F) IDWR supports the development of water conservation educational activities by municipal purveyors regulated as public water systems.

G) Existing or planned consumptive uses of ground water on the Rathdrum Prairie should substitute reclaimed wastewater where ever it is readily available and meets water quality requirements. IDWR supports the investigation of using reclaimed wastewater from municipal wastewater facilities to lessen the impact of the wastewater on the Spokane River.

## **Goal 6**

To encourage the state of Washington to obtain information regarding water availability and use to manage the resource consistently across the bi-state aquifer.

## **Strategies**

As discussed in Strategies for Goals 1 and 2, long-term management of the ground water resources will require regional cooperation with the state of Washington. Therefore, IDWR encourages the state of Washington to develop and implement similar water management strategies to this plan.

## **V. ACTIONS**

Additional IDWR actions to be implemented immediately upon adoption of a management plan are necessary to administer the ground water resources adequately. These actions include:

1. New domestic uses defined by Section 42-111, Idaho Code, may be authorized based on IDWR approval of a well drilling application/permit. New individual ground water domestic uses shall be discouraged if water can be reasonably supplied from a municipal source.
2. Ground water rights with diversion points located within the management area shall not be considered lost, abandoned and/or forfeited for non-use, in whole or in part, if non-use is for the purpose of conservation or other conditions of this management plan and with approval of the Director, IDWR. The five (5) year period of non-use for forfeiture of a water right shall resume upon termination of this Plan unless non-use is otherwise authorized by law or such conditions set forth in Idaho Code.
3. Any well to be abandoned in the management area shall require a well abandonment approval issued by IDWR. This requirement will protect water quality and limit wasting of water that might otherwise result from improper well abandonment techniques. Before any well is abandoned, the possibility that it could be used for monitoring should be explored.
4. The Director may require aquifer monitoring for any new ground water diversions approved around the GWMA to the extent that such monitoring would be expected to yield data relevant to the boundaries and conditions of the management area.
5. IDWR supports the investigation of managed recharge of the RPSV aquifer. During periods of high flow in the Spokane River, the potential exists for enhancing the volume of water that enters the aquifer along the losing reaches of the river. The stored water could then be available for discharge to the river during the traditional low-flow time period. The investigations must evaluate the economics of augmented volumes while preserving the water quality of the aquifer.

## **VI. ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

- A) The Advisory Committee recommends that the Director hold a public meeting in the local area prior to approval of the Plan.
- B) The Advisory Committee shall continue to perform the duties described in the Order including recommending solutions to issues that arise in the RPGWMA.

C) The Advisory Committee shall meet at least once a year no later than May 31. Minutes from this annual meeting shall be provided to the Director. Additional meetings may be convened to address specific issues that arise. Notice of meetings shall meet all requirements of state rules and statutes.

D) The Plan shall be reviewed annually, and modified as needed, by the Advisory Committee. At the end of each five (5) year period starting from the date the Plan is approved by the Director, the Advisory Committee shall issue a summary report to document the progress of the Plan. Modifications to the Plan shall be submitted to the Director for approval.

**Expanded Natural Resources Interim Committee  
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**Recommendations**

**Draft 10/4/04**

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